THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 23RD MARCH.

THE RAGE for appointing members of the Civil Service to the Directorship of Public Instruction to the exclusion of the Departmental Officers, has, we see, travelled over to the Western Presidency also. Sir James Fergusson is going to put Mr. Lee-Warner in charge of the portfolio of the Education Department of his satrapy, during the absence, on leave, of the permanent incumbent, Mr. Chatfield. We have had a similar example of supercession in the Panjab only lately. We cannot understand, why gentlemen who have devoted their whole lives to the service, should now be excluded from holding appointments, to which they look as the highest reward for their labor, devotion and loyalty to the cause of education. If the heaven-born should monopolise all the loaves and fishes of every service, we do not know, if intelligent men would ever think of coming out to India, except as a C. S. Sir James, is really doing an injury to the Educational Service by overlooking the claims of its members. Sir Charles Aitchison, being himself a Civilian, may naturally have some predilection for his fellows, but we fail to understand what motive could have led Sir James Fergusson to break the time-honoured rule of giving the department one of its own members to direct it. When such anomalies are becoming common, we would advise the members of the ill-fated department of all the Presidencies, to unite in moving the highest authorities to have their rights vindicated.

IT IS gratifying to find that in all the troubles of England, Italy is likely, and means, to remain her faithful ally. "Foreign help is not needed," says the *Roma*, "and has been courteously declined. We cannot but respect the legitimate and honourable susceptibility of the English, but it may happen that a change will come over this feeling, and, if so, we should be prepared, directly, or indirectly to extend a helping hand." We hope that these cordial relations will be improved, cemented and strengthened.

"THE IRISH people have adopted as their motto 'England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity.' 'Irish orators are now stumping in the country and delivering terrible anathemas against the might of England. They are raising up the people to resist English power at this critical time, and they freely promise that Ireland will gain self-rule or home-rule—nothing less. Organised attempts at drilling the people are being made in several countries and the Police expect every moment some out-break.' One orator said: 'I hope the people of Donegal will never give landlordism or the English Government an hour's rest or comfort. If England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity, her difficulties are at this moment crowding pretty thickly upon her. Her hands are bound and her armies are not doing satisfactorily in the country of the Mahdi. If the people at home only act as Mr. Parnell and his party will do in Parliament, they will not have to wait long for the opportunity of vindicating the rights of Ireland, and of driving famine and landlordism and English rule for ever from the shores of Ireland." It is the unwise land legislation of the present cabinet that has roused this ill-feeling against the British Government among the Irish.

IN REVIEWING the Administration Report of the Native States under the stewardship of the Bombay Government, the *Times of India* very pertinently observes:—"The Mogul Empire produced a few great statesmen. But in the struggle between the Moghul and the Mahratta for supremacy, the art of Government was forgotten, and India groaned under every form of evil administration. Then the English reduced the chaos into some sort of form. But they were too occupied in their own Government to pay much heed to the Native States. However, by degrees, the Indian sovereigns have followed the examples set them, and introduced many important reforms into their States. They now devote their attention to education, sanitation, and public works. The only danger is, they may too slavishly copy the English Government. They may acquire the taste of spending too much money in the æsthetics of brick and mortar—and take to erecting hideous buildings painted with French grey. They may, like Bombay, spend vast sums of money on sanitation, and their capital may become more offensive and more unwholesome than it was a quarter of a century ago. They may devote their attention to judical organization, and at a vast cost establish a high court full of sinecure posts, from which court the poor man may get justice at the minimum cost of eighteen hundred rupees after the lapse of two years. They may spend the ryots' money in building stately colleges, and their schools may day by day grow less efficient. We are too prone to congratulate ourselves that the Native States are following in the footsteps of our own administration. But we consider the English administration might be used not only as an example, but as a warning." It is a sage advice to our princes, and they ought always to bear it in mind. We all know that imitation never makes a man great, and our princes should do themselves great, injustice if they would blindly follow the British administration with all its imperfections.

TUESDAY, 24TH MARCH.

THE FOLLOWING is a copy of the resolution which Mr. J. K. Cross proposed with reference to the cost of sending Indian troops to the Soudan:—"Her Majesty having directed a military expedition of her native forces charged upon the revenues of India to be despatched for service in the Soudan and Nubia, this House consents that the ordinary pay of such troops as well as the ordinary charges of any vessels belonging to the Government of India that may be employed in the expedition, which would have been charged upon the revenues of India if such troops or vessels had remained in that country or seas adjacent, shall continue to be so chargeable; provided, that if it shall become necessary to replace the troops or vessels so withdrawn by other vessels or native force, the expense of raising, maintaining, and providing such vessels or forces shall be repaid out of any moneys which may be provided by Parliament for the purposes of the said expedition." The resolution will bring relief to many persons who were uncertain about Mr. Cross's meaning. The necessity for fresh troops in India has already arisen. We hope they will be paid for out of Parliamentary grants.

THE FOLLOWING letter from the late General Gordon, addressed to a friend in Cairo, and dated Khartoum, December 14th, was received at Cairo on the 24th ultimo:—"All is up. I expect a catastrophe in ten days' time. It would not have been so if our people had kept me better informed as to their intentions. My adieux to all. C. G. Gordon."—It is remarked that the scrap of paper received by Lord Wolseley from General Gordon with the words "Khartoum all right" bore the same date as the above lettter.

SAYS A CONTEMPORARY:—"The Maharaja of Kashmir is said to keep up an active and extensive correspondence with the Ameer of Cabul. His Highness the Maharaja has also correspondents in Peshawur, who are supposed to send him all the Peshawur and Cabul news, and any local gossip they can pick up." What of that? If the Maharaja of Kashmir, has correspondents in Cabul and Peshawur, what blame attaches to him, we fail to see, on the contrary, all praise is due to him for keeping notice of what is going on in the neighbouring states.

"OBSERVATIONS on the relation between forests and temperature have been conducted for a period of thirteen years at various Forest Stations in Prussia, and Professor Muttrich, who has carefully examined the result, has come to certain definite conclusions on the subject. It is believed first, that forests exercise a positive influence on the temperature of the air; secondly, that the daily range of temperature is less in the forest than in the open land outside, and more remarkably so in summer than in winter; and thirdly, that forests in leaf exercise during the day a cooling influence that is more powerful than the warming influence which they exert during the night. It is also noted that the maximum temperature in the forest is reached from half an hour to one hour later than outside in the open country." The Hindus knew this from a long time ago, and hence it is that the planting of groves was made a religious duty.

SAYS THE *Pioneer*:—"That the meeting of the editors of certain vernacular papers, which was reported in our Madras telegram, published on Wednesday last, is well worthy of attention, as a healthy sign of the times. They met, as will be seen, to combine for the publication of only just and moderate criticism on the actions of Government, and to express their grateful sense of the liberty enjoyed by the Press and the many benefactions of Imperial rule. The Vernacular Press of Madras has rarely or never, so far as we remember, abused its liberty, and would stand in no danger of that extinction, under a Russian regime, which would as certainly overtake some of its colleagues elsewhere. The movement is eminently honourable to Madras. To Government it means just as much, in a very important sense, as the more splendid offers of material help from, among others, the Nizam and Holkar." We are glad that the Madras Native Editors have come to this determination. But with regard to the covert rebuke to editors "elsewhere" contained in the above extract, we say that the Anglo-Indian journals of that region are as much nauseating as the native ones, and that the native editors are goaded on to assume a hostile attitude by the scurrility and flippancy of the leaders of journalism. In Madras, be to its credit said, both parties are moderate, hence none need indulge in intemperance in talk.

WE HAVE received the following from the Press Commissioner's Office:—

Weekly Memorandum of Remittances to the Home Treasury by means of Council Bills.

1. Amount to be remitted during 1884 85 ...	£13,795,300
2. Remitted from 1st April, 1884 to 21st March, 1885	£13,351,600
3. Balance to be remitted from 22nd March to 31st March 1885	£443,700

WEDNESDAY, 25TH MARCH.

THE PIONEER says:—"In addition to two or three field-days in the Pindi Camp, there is to be, of course, a Grand Review of all the troops and contingents present. The exact date has not yet been fixed, but we believe it will be April 1st or 2nd."

"A GENERAL order has been issued to the troops at Dover and Shorncliffe, permitting them to smoke cigars and cigarettes in the streets. It is thought that this will promote temperance."

It is proposed to erect at Cannes a chapel in memory of the late Duke of Albany, on a site given by Mr. Savile, adjoining the Villa Nevada, in which His Royal Highness died.

"LARGE and enthusiastic meetings for promoting the disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales have been held at Pembroke, Carnarvon, Tenby, Pontardulais, and Briton Ferry. In several cases the clergy have offered a determined opposition, but in every instance resolutions have been carried, and, with the exception of Pembroke, by overwhelming majorities, in favour of urging the subject upon the immediate attention of Parliament. Mr. J. Fisher has represented the Liberation Society at these meetings, and he has been ably supported by local friends. Other meetings of an equally hearty character have been held in North Wales." Now, how would Mr. Hope repudiate the action of the Welsh? If the practice of maintaining religious establishments at the cost of the State is so viewed in Great Britain itself, is not India, alien in race and creed, fully justified in asking the rulers to maintain their own churches themselves? If the conquerors wish to have salvation, they must have it at their own cost, and not from the taxes that is wrung out of the Indian people. The Viceroy ought in this matter to follow what his predecessor had recommended.

NATHANIEL Hawthorne, the 'most singular genius that America has yet produced,' had once to make a speech in public. "As I rose," said he, recording that painful experience, "I tapped upon my mind, and it sounded hollow. It was quite empty. There was nothing in it whatsoever." Public speaking requires brass and nerve in the speaker, and these are qualities which, perhaps, an official or demi-official order cannot infuse into him.

HERE IS a clergyman put to a sorry plight by a publican! "A Sunderland clergyman," says the *Alliance News*, "an earnest temperance worker,

going home late at night recently, heard noise in a public-house. He directed the attention of a policeman to the matter, and followed the policeman into the house to witness what was going on, so as to act in support of the policeman if necessary, should the case come before the court. The publican, in spite, or for a joke, summoned the clergyman for being on licensed premises during prohibited hours. The case in due time came before the court. Much interest was excited, as the matter got bruited abroad." The presence of mind of the publican was worthy of his profession.

THE *Pioneer* gives the following account of the Russian trade in girls: "The trade in children within the province of Yakutask is the subject of an interesting note in the Journal of the Russian Geographical Society. The Irkutsk Geographical Society had received a note from one of its members, who thus depicted the lot of girls within the province: In the last century the poorest Yakute, who had no means of supporting a large family, took his new-born child in a covering of birch-bark, and hung it on a tree in the forest to die from hunger. But the richer Russian merchants began to buy children from their poorer Yakute clients, and so several Russians purchased whole families of servants. This custom induced the Yakute communities to take care of the poorest children, and the community was bound to feed them, under the name of *Kumolan* children, who spent three days in the houses of the richer members of the community, two days in those of the moderately wealthy, and one day with the poorest. But of late the custom has arisen of selling children, and especially girls, to Olekminsk merchants, who sell them further to the Yakutes and Tunguses of the Olekminsk district. The parents sell girls for thirty to forty roubles (3*l.* to 4*l.*), and in Olekmir they are re-sold for sixty roubles, sometimes eighty roubles. Of course this trade is made under the cover of 'taking children to bring up.' The Irkutsk Society having taken interest in this communication, has received information from Yakutsk authorities, and from a well-known student of Yakute life, M. Gorokhoff. It appears from these communications that such trade really exists, the chief impulse to it being given, less by the work a purchased girl might do, than by the possibility of receiving for the *kalym*, that is, the money paid by men for purchasing a wife. Woman labour is at so low a price that one might have a woman in his household and pay her half a piece of cotton, 'for a shirt,' per year. But the *kalym* reaches very high prices. One rich Yakute has recently sold his daughter to a Tungus for 3,000 reindeer, and the same price was recently given by a half-idiotic Yakute for the daughter of another Yakute. Middendorff quotes also several instances of a very high *kalym* paid for girls, its average being about 500 roubles. When a Russian priest sold a girl whom he had educated for five sables and ten skins, it was considered as a very low price. Altogether, the *kalym* is the chief cause of maintaining the trade in girls, together with the gradual impoverishment of the Yakutes."

THURSDAY, 26TH MARCH.

WE ARE SORRY to hear that our venerable friend Mr. Manockjee Rustomji, Persian consul in Calcutta, has been asked by the Bombay consulate to resign his appointment. Mr. Rustomji holds his appointment direct from the Shâh. Has the Bombay Consul, therefore, any authority to force him to resign his appointment? Mr. Manockjee Rustomji has all along honorably filled the post, and we don't understand, why he should now be obliged to throw it up.

HIS HONOR the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will leave Calcutta for Darjeeling by the middle of next month.

THE WORLD says:—"The Marquis of Ripon will be among the first visitors to the Queen after her return to Windsor; and the *Gazette* will probably announce at no very distant day the creation of a new dukedom. A step in the Peerage has been given to every Viceroy on his retirement."

SAYS the *Civil and Military Gazette*:—"It is to be hoped the Cadet Companies will not be unrepresented. There is an excellent Cadet Company connected with the 1st Punjab Volunteer Rifle Corps, at Lahore and another at Murree, from which a picked company of, say, 80 lads could be made up. The sight of even our school boys under arms, should show the Amir that the old martial spirit has not yet died out." A wag at our elbow suggests that a regiment of ladies under arms would do still better to add to the interest and impressiveness of the grand *Tamasha* at Rawal Pindi. Will our contemporary suggest the idea to the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab?

THE FOLLOWING item of news regarding the movements of the Amir of Afghanistan comes from Lahore: "According to present arrangements, the Amir, who is now being officially styled Amir of Afghanistan, will arrive at Dakka on 25th, Lundi Kotal on 27th, and Peshawur on 29th, where he stays two days. His movements, however, are still uncertain. One hundred and fifty Sirdars accompany the Amir to India. The Amir now demurs to the idea of going by train from Peshawur, and says he would prefer travelling to Rawul Pindee in the Viceroy's carriages. He declines to leave his followers behind at Jumrood or Peshawur, and prefers to take them with him to Rawul Pindee. General Gordon has arrived to Peshawur to receive the Amir. The Amir will not live in tents at Rawul Pindee, but the Commissioner's house is being fitted up for him, and all his suite. The house, which is being prepared for him at Peshawur, has cost Rs. 50,000."

WHILE DESCANTING on the sequel of the Rawal Pindi Durbar, and jocularly giving the Amir of Afghanistan a locality opposite the King of Oudh's palace at Garden Reach, the *Englishman* gives out the serious opinions of some of our military critics regarding the feasibility of retaining Afghanistan, if occupied by the British. Considering the keen sense of independence of the Afghans, and their distrust of British honesty, we think, the more we keep our own counsel in such matters the better. The conversion of Afghanistan or Kandahar into a British territory is no part of the programme of the present Liberal Ministry holding the reins of the British Government. We do not see any earthly necessity, therefore, for allowing such thoughts to take air. The times are critical, and the Amir is being brought down to Pindi for the cultivation of friendship; and it would be the height of indiscretion now to hint at the occupation of Afghanistan even in jest.

WE ARE now having suggestions as cheap as strawberries in season, and they may be had only for the picking. Somebody suggests of garrisoning the Mediterranean forts with Indian troops, and thereby freeing a part of the British regiments for field service, for the very sound reason that the Indian troops made no objection in going to Malta on a previous occasion. But our friend forgets that it was only a temporary sojourn, and that only Mahomedan regiments were sent to Malta. The Hindu troops will not, as far as we know of Hindu character, readily agree to change their locus, and if pressure be put upon them to submit to such an order, who knows what scene they will enact? The Indians as a people are more or less home-loving, and neither Hindus nor Mussulmans will like the idea of leaving their own shores for distant ones. The idea should be scouted, and no place given it in our minds.

FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH.

FROM ADVICES received by the last mail, it appears that the Chinese are faring badly at the hands of the French. The French have succeeded in capturing Langson, and raising the seige of Tayenguen. The French fleet has also succeeded in doing some damage to the Chinese war-ships. To prevent Tonquin being reinforced, the French have proclaimed a blockade of the Pakhoi coast. We are further told that the peace party in Pekin are daily gaining strength, and the Empress and Prince Li-Hang Chang are in favour of once more entering into negotiations with the French on favourable terms. Some additional war taxes are to be levied on certain articles of merchandise among which are opium and tea. The Hong-Kong and Shanghai Bank will advance a million and a half sterling to China by way of loan.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL D. H. TRAILL, R. E., Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bengal, is appointed to officiate as Accountant General and Deputy Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department, during the absence, on leave, of Lieutenant Colonel A. J. Filgate; and Captain C. H. P. Christie, R. E., officiates for Lieutenant-Colonel Traill, in addition to his own duties, as Examiner of Guaranteed Railway Accounts.

THE MAURITIUS coolies are just now much troubled for want of work, and their distress has become very great. A deputation of 400 of them waited on the Governor to demand work. The Colonial Secretary received the deputation, and informed the members that Government was not in a position to find work for all the unemployed labourers, and advised them to seek for labour elsewhere than on the sugar plantations. True, the advice is sound and wholesome; but should the coolies themselves or their employers who imported them to the settlement, look for work. They were induced to come to the plantations with the promise that their services would be required there for a certain number of years, and that they would receive higher wages than they got at home. But here is an example of the way in which the planters keep their promises, and how the Slave Act affords protection to these poor men.

THIS IS what they say at Lahore:—"The Hon'ble C. P. Ilbert, C. I. E., is at present staying in Lahore as a guest at Government House. The Legal Member is on his way to Rawal Pindi; but it is only known in the most confidential circles that his mission is to advice Amir Abdur Rahman regarding the proposed establishment of a High Court at Cabul, with Hindu Judges.

SAYS A CONTEMPORARY:—"Maharaja Holkar has done a wise and sensible thing, presuming that he is anxious to set himself straight with the Government and the English people; he has, in the event of complications on the frontier, placed the whole resources of his State unreservedly at the disposal of the Government. Lord Dufferin has accepted this offer in the spirit in which it deserved to be acknowledged." Scindia has also made a similar offer, and being an honorary generai has also offered his personal services.

WE LEARN, an Assistant Inspectorship of Schools will be created for the Western Circle. The post of an Assistant Inspector, is in no way less important than that of the Inspector. Such posts should be filled up by the best men of the department. Babu Banimadhub De, M. A., Head Master, Howrah Zillah School, is an experienced and able officer, and will, we think, do very well for the post. We hope, the Government of Bengal will take his claims into its favourable consideration.

THE REMARKS of His Excellency the Viceroy regarding the reading of written speeches in the Council Chamber has unmanned many of our Councillors, and they have become almost hopeless of making themselves heard in the Council-room for fear of cutting a bad figure there. But we ask them to take heart. We would request them to try the experiment which Professor Nyamanover of the United States suggested two years ago viz., the construction of 'reading machines,' or 'whispering-machines' as they are variously called. The invention is simple. The speeches will have to be printed upon cylinders of metal on the musical-alphabet or phonographic principle, and the cylinders placed on a small automaton, small enough to remain inside a hat or a *pakri*, whence the sounds are to be carried to the ears of the speakers by telephonic wires, thus facilitating the delivery of their addresses without the help of writing. The objectionists to speech-reading will then be gagged, and the speakers relieved of the trouble of straining their mental faculties to get by heart a long speech. Those who want to have a better idea of the instrument will read with advantage an article on the subject in the present number of the *Nineteenth Century*.

SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH.

THE MADRAS MAIL says:—"The point of Sir Auckland Colvin's Financial Statement will be found in its tail. The Budget reflects the unsatisfactory nature of the times in which we live, and about the best that can be said for it is that it reveals a situation that might be very much worse. The Russian nettle should be grasped, our frontiers strengthened, and our coasts protected. We see now how injudicious it was on Lord Ripon's part to relinquish the Customs duties. The Government sees trouble and heavy expenditure ahead, but is content to live on in a hand-to-mouth fashion. It would have been wiser to have boldly stated that special provision was needed." We made ourselves hoarse by crying against the injustice that was done to the country by the abolition of the customs duties and the lowering of the salt tax. But we cried in vain.

THE *New York Sun* gives the following amusing description of a Salvationist meeting:—"One of them, happening to be present at a Salvationist meeting, recently held at Philadelphia, found himself thus described; 'We have a reporter here,' said a 'Lieutenant,' a miserable reporter, a sinful servant of the unholy newspapers. The Prince of Darkness has made him stubborn; he will not join us. Oh, the wicked reporter! The Devil holds the forts in his brain; he is going to the kingdom of flames, and he is a type of all reporters, who are a wicked lot. The speaker paused to allow time for the heart of the sinner to be moved to repentance; but as the reporter remained standing, in spite of solicitations to kneel, and was in no way melted, the soldiers, male and female, lifted up their voices, and wept over the dreadful man, whilst the Lieutenant shouted, 'Oh, kill this reporter; kill him. He is too obstinate to yield. He is proud; all reporters are proud. Oh strike him down, for he is the devil in disguise.' Without

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waiting to hear more, the representative of the Philadelphia newspaper quitted the meeting-room, the Salvationists greeting his exit with the cry, 'He is gone, he is past praying for."

THE FOLLOWING description of the organization of the Mahdi's forces will be read with interest :—"The tactical unit of his army is the 'brotherhood,' consisting of ten men who are originally under the orders of their senior in age. Any soldier, however, who specially distinguishes himself may be promoted to the leadership. Ten of these 'brotherhood' form a company, at the head of which is a ferik, and ten companies form a regiment which is commanded by an emir and his lieutenants. Every company has its linen flag, which invariably bears the two crossed swords that form the military device of the Mahdi; but the colour of the flags varies, each regiment having its own, and, in fact being known by its colour. Deeds of bravery are rewarded with a present of gold; and any private man, by continued gallantry, may raise himself to rank of ferik, or even emir. When the Mahdi commands in pesron he is accompanied by ten emirs who constitute his staff, by ten officers who act as aides-de-camp, and by four mounted bairakdars, or standard-bearers. Those twenty-four immediate companions of the Genereal-in-Chief are alone eligible to sit on courts-martial and councils of war; but the Mahdi is said to have several unofficial counsellers, and among these doubtless, are the two Frenchmen who according to the Paris papers, have thrown in their lot with him."

DURING the week ending 21st March, there were 250 deaths in the town, of which 46 were from cholera, 4 from small-pox, 55 from fever, and the rest from other causes.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :—

London, March 27.—In the course of the debate on Mr. Bruce's motion condemning the Egyptian Convention, Mr. Gladstone laid stress upon the necessity of a Convention, and said that his fears that it would lead to foreign interference in Egypt were groundless.

Haiphong, March 26.—The troops under General Negrier have been repulsed by the Chinese after three days' fighting, and have returned to Dongdang.

The French loss in killed and wounded is 200.

28.—After two days' debate, the House of Commons approved last night of the Egyptian Convention, by 294 votes against 246.

Rawul Pindee, March 27.—The Amir reaches Peshawur to-morrow, and Rawul Pindee by Rail on the 30th. Carriages were the means of conveyance from Jumrood to Peshawur. Among to-day's arrivals are the Viceroy, the Commander in-Chief, and the Hyderabad Deputation. The Duke of Connaught is expected. The Viceroy receives and returns Rajas' visits tomorrow. The Maharajas of Jummoo is absent on account of sickness.

Lahore, March 28.—A disturbance has taken place on the Tonk border, where the Waziris attacked the Kothirghi outpost. The 1st Punjab Infantry from Gurki sent a detatchment, who help to drive the Waziris back to the hills. The loss is five men wounded on our side, and five of the enemy killed.

Bombay, March 28.—A special telegram from London to the *Times of India* says that, except that orders have been issued for the calling out of the Militia and Reserves, the situation is unchanged. War preparations continue, and the dockyards and arsenals are very active. A special telegram from Cairo to the *Bombay Gazette* says that Major Chermside wires from Suakim, that the powerful tribe of the Hodendowas have been defeated at Daggah, on the road between Senheit and Kassala, by the Beniahmars, a friendly tribe, who captured many cattle and camels, and a large number of remingtons. According to statements reported to Major Chermside' Kassala is still holding out. It is reported from Massawah that an American Irishman has reached Osman Digma's camp. The Irishman, it is stated, embarked at Chicago, and arrived at Ceylon. There he disguised himself as an Indian merchant, and saw Arabi. He subsequently, landed on the Arabian coast, and joined Osman Digma.

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

(*210, Bow-Bazar Street.*)

(SESSION 1885.)

LECTURE by Babu Tara Prasanna Roy, F.C.S., F.I.C., &c. *on Thursday*, the *2nd April* at 7½ P. M.
Subject : The Water we drink.
The lecture is open to the public.

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, M. D.,
Honorary Secretary.

March 28th, 1885.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1885.

THE BUDGET.

II.

WHAT we said in our last clearly demonstrates the unwisdom of the course which Lord Ripon and Sir Evelyn Baring followed in 1882 in remitting the import duties and reducing the salt tax. The wanton sacrifice of revenue which these measures have involved cannot be too deeply deplored. The Government now feels the loss of the millions it has needlessly thrown away, and we should not be surprised if it should be driven to the necessity of imposing fresh taxation to meet additional calls for expenditure. Indeed, Sir Auckland Colvin points this broadly in the passage we have quoted above. Already the pinch has come in the first year, the Government has been compelled to grapple with unfavourable conditions. This would not have been the case if the Government of India had not wantonly sacrificed 2½ millions of revenue by abolishing the import duties and reducing the salt tax. The situation in which normal receipts are barely equal to the normal expenditure can hardly be described as satisfactory. It was to put an end to this condition of affairs that Sir John Strachey imposed additional taxation in 1877-78, and we are again in the same position. The expectation that increased consumption would recoup the Government for the loss caused by the reduction of the salt duties has not been fulfilled, nor will it be for years to come.

There are several important points connected with the Financial statement which deserve careful consideration. The first is the extension of railways. The Finance Minister announced that the Government will carry out the measures recommended by the Parliamentary Committee on Indian Railways for the construction of railways with such further development as the circumstances of the time render imperative. He summarises the recommendations made by the Committee and discusses the effect of the same. He says :—"Railways, whether Protective or Productive, whether, that is to say, Railways solely designed as safeguards against the effect of famines, or whether partly, or in whole projected with the view of opening up or connecting the centres of production or of trade, will alike be charged, so far as is necessary, to loan expenditure. Hitherto the latter only have been so charged, expenditure on Protective railways having been limited to the £500,000 annually available from the Famine Insurance grant, and to such small sums as could be spared from Revenue. The forecast having been made, it will be necessary to provide funds for its execution; but, so far as concerns capitalising from the Famine grant any portion of the funds necessary for payment of interest to the Companies to whom it was proposed to confide, under a guarantee, certain important railways, the proposal must be abandoned, and the sum of £50,000 hitherto spent in construction of Protective railways, will continue to be contributed from Revenue to Capital Expenditure. The interest to be paid on account of the new guaranteed railways, therefore, as well as any additional interest to be paid in consequence of extension of the limits of our annual loans, will be furnished from the general resources at the disposal of the Government of India. The resources to which we had hoped to turn to assist us in part in this obligation, have been, so far as they depended on the partial capitalisation of the Famine Insurance grant, denied us; while, on the other hand, the Parliamentary Committee have endorsed the declaration of the Government of India that the development of its railways is not to be carried out at the expense of further taxation." We yet hope against hope that the Government of India and the Secretary of State will seriously re-consider the question of railway extension in India. The Parliamentary Committee approved the proposals of Lord Ripon's Government for the construction of additional railways on the ground that the net earnings of our railways during 1883 had yielded a return of 5 per cent. exclusive of loss by exchange, upon their capital outlay. We have said before and we repeat that the circumstances of 1883 on the results of which the Committee based their conclusions, were altogether exceptional. The wheat trade was abnormally active during that year. In 1883 large orders were received from English merchants owing to reports of a partial failure of the winter wheat in America. This diminution was estimated by the American Agricultural Bureau to be not less than 77 million bushels, or more than one-fifth of the average produce. As might have been easily anticipated, there has already been a great falling off in our railway receipts. During the current financial year the East Indian Railway receipts alone were £418,800 less than were estimated in consequence of what the Finance Minister calls "the stagnation of the wheat trade." As a matter of fact, however, there has been no stagnation in the wheat trade. The truth is, the wheat exports of 1884 have been normal whereas those of the previous year, as we have explained above, had been exceptional. It is true that since January there has been some revival in wheat; but he must be a bold man who would venture to hope that this trade will resume the activity of 1883 for years to come. If it had been properly explained to the Indian Railway Committee by the official witnesses examined by them that the circumstances of 1883 were altogether exceptional, the Committee, we feel sure, would not have taken the railway earnings of that year as their guide. The Committee have accorded to their approval to the proposals of the Government of India for railway under a misapprehension of the real bearings of the case. We must not shut our eyes to the fact that the railways hitherto constructed have cost the tax-payer no less than 70 crores of rupees, a fact which is alone sufficient to demonstrate the necessity of proceeding with railway extension with great caution. We know that the Parliamentary Committee have accepted the scheme of the Government of India on the distinct understanding that its execution must not involve additional taxation. But this condition is practically meaningless. After borrowed money has been invested on railways, the Government must find the interest payable on the same, and if the resources at its disposal do not enable it to bear the charge, it must impose fresh burdens upon the people. We cannot but look upon the railway policy of the Government with the greatest misgivings, as it is calculated to seriously embarrass our finances. It will be remembered that in his evidence before the Parliamentary Committee Mr. Westland, the Comptroller-General, estimated that the Government of India could estimate for a safe surplus of £480,000 on a safe calculation of the Revenue and Expenditure, and at a low forecast of Opium. Since Mr. Westland gave his evidence, the estimate of the exchange has fallen two farthings, a sum equivalent, at his calculation, to £440, or more than the first years' annual increase which he estimated. The Finance Minister admits that the Government will be compelled to take, on its estimates, a lower rate of exchange than 1*s* 7*d.*, and should the stagnation of our export and rice trade continue, the normal surplus indicated in Mr. Westland's calculations, let alone any possible increase thereto, will be a matter of extreme doubtfulness. When such is the case, we would earnestly entreat the Government to pause before embarking upon an ambitious scheme of railway extension.

Sir Auckland Colvin discusses the financial relations of the Government of India with the several Local Governments and Administrations, as regulated by the terms of the Provincial contracts. He states that the several Provincial contracts which are now entering on the fourth year of their quinquennial term, have proved to be equitable. We have always held that Sir Evelyn Baring's decentralization scheme is a great improvement upon Sir John Stracheys' "ticcadari" system. But it cannot be denied that even under the existing state of things the Local Governments find themselves pressed occasionally to meet the expenditure which

they consider essential. The Supreme Government is quite right in insisting on an economical administration in all the provinces under its control. But when additional expenditure becomes necessary for the sake of improved administration, it must be provided. *Loss by Exchange* continues to increase steadily, and some notion of the burden imposed on Indian finances by this growing difficulty will be formed when it is remembered that it has risen from £428,020 in 1871-72 to £3,573,600 in the Budget Estimates for the ensuing year. The best remedy for this serious evil is to reduce the home charges materially; but the Government does not, for obvious reasons, choose to apply this remedy. If the Secretary of State had not been able to furnish himself with funds in England, the Government of India should have had to estimate the loss by exchange in 1885-86 at a figure certainly not less than £4,000,000. Sir Auckland Colvin observes that unless exchange improves during ensuing years, we must regard ourselves as liable to have to make provision upon our Budgets for an item of little less than four millions in excess of that which at the commencement of the last decade we were called upon to meet. It is a most serious state of things, which demands the attentive consideration of the British public. The Finance Minister admits that Stock Notes have shown no sign of improvement. He says that the Government of India are about to address the Secretary of State upon the subject with a view of taking such measures as may possibly facilitate the use of the notes. In discussing Ways and Means, the Finance Minister points out that if the Secretary of State should draw the amount he proposes to draw, the ensuing year will open with a balance in Indian Treasuries of £11,920,000; but if he were to draw the whole amount from India during the year, the balance in Indian Treasuries would require to be supplemented by a loan of 350 lakhs. The Government of India, we are glad to see, has urged on the Secretary of State the inexpediency of attempting to borrow on the Indian market this year, and Lord Kimberley has accepted this opinion. The Government accordingly announced its intention of borrowing in England this year; but it wishes it to be distinctly understood that no pledge is given. Uncertainty in such a matter as this is calculated to do serious mischief, and we feel it our duty to condemn strongly the course which the Government has pursued. A definite announcement of the intentions of Government should have been made in the interests of the public.

THE PRESENT CRISIS AND THE NATIVE CHIEFS.

In spite of the hopes held out by the Premier, it would not require a seer to foretell, that the long-talked of war with Russia, may break out at any moment, judging at least from the complications that are daily becoming more and more alarming. And England and India are evidently alive to the seriousness of the crisis, and are busily engaged in making adequate preparations to meet it in a becoming manner. If the approaching crisis is one the equal of which has not been seen since the days of the memorable Sutlej Campaign, the warlike preparations that are going on all over the country, and specially towards the frontier, are such as the oldest inhabitant does not remember to have seen the like of. The imposing Durbar to be held on the vast plains about Rawalpindi, to give the Amir of Afghanisthan a fitting reception, and to impress him with the grandeur and wealth of the British Indian Empire and its martial resources and sources of strength, loses much of its colour of mere display, seen in the light of the important political bearing it is meant to have. The people of India very naturally could not appreciate the value of the huge *tamasha* that Lord Lytton got up at Delhi eight years ago, for the delectation of the Beaconsfield Ministry, in the face of one of the most dreadful calamities that ever befell the people of India, namely the Madras Famine. At the present day, however, though the pressure of scarcity is severely felt in some parts of the country, the people of India do not regard the Rawalpindi Durbar unfavourably, because they know it is meant to be a political demonstration, with which the safety and stability of the Indian Empire is intimately connected. There will be a dispersion, it is true, of the high officials seeking the shades and comforts of cool mountain heights, after the gaities and the merry doings of the Durbar are over, but there will also be a massing of troops in the frontier. Sixty thousand troops of all arms both Indian and European equipped on war scale, will hold themselves in readiness for any emergency, in the frontier towns of Quetta and Peshawar. It is no small credit to our military resources, that we should, at almost a moment's notice, be able to concentrate at a given point a force of 60,000 troops, especially after the drain on account of the unfortunate Soudan Campaign. Any deficiency in the army establishment will be made up by recruiting Indian troops at the rate of 200 men per regiment all round, which will increase our Indian army by more than 25,000 men, and by reinforcements from England to the extent of 15,000 men.

We can never shut our eyes to the fact that the charges of the gay doings at Rawalpindi, and the mere movement of the vast number of troops that it is proposed to concentrate in the frontier, will be a serious burden on our already strained financial resources. But the charges are not to be objected to on that ground, because they simply cannot be helped. We would have been the first to protest against these charges, as unnecessary, since no war has actually broken out, if we did not feel that Imperial interests and the state of the empire demanded the massing of the troops in the frontier most imperatively. After the late disasters to the British arms in Soudan, Russia was naturally elated with the hope, vain though it be, that what between the supposed disaffection of the people and the weakened resources of England in India, it would not be beyond the pale of possibility, that she should be able to score an easy victory and steal a march on her rival. The time has, therefore, come to make her clearly understand, that she is indeed very much mistaken in her calculations, that the people of India are loyal to the core to their country and to their sovereign, and that the British Empire in India is founded on a much firmer basis than Russia would care to give credit for. If the gigantic demonstration attended by the princes and the people of the land, by the ruler and the ruled, and the subsequent concentration of troops in the frontier are attended with no other results, they will have at least the effect of hastening Russia to carry out the promise of withdrawing her troops from the debatable ground, beyond Sarakhs and Panjdeh, because she will be really made to feel that she has a rather tough work before her.

If, however, the demonstration fails to have this desiriable effect, and if the worst comes to the worst, 60,000 troops will certainly be too few for the purposes of actual war with so formidable a European power as Russia. And there will be a further drain on the existing strength of our Indian garrisons. There is no knowing as to whether the exigencies in the Soudan, may necessitate a still further drain. With the present requirements in the Soudan and the possible requirements in Europe itself, it would not be reasonable for us to expect any very material reinforcements from England. Reuter's telegram, that an Admiralty order has been issued, that every available ship be prepared for service, makes it clear that in case of hostilities actually breaking out, Europe will be as much the seat of war as Asia. Simultaneous naval attacks, in the Baltic and the Black Sea, must in the nature of things, be the first step in the war, long before the sturdy Cossack and the formidable hordes of Central Asian cavalry, have had time to cross the defiles of the Hindu Kush. And the glorious triumphs of Odessa and Sebastopool may be repeated long before a Russian gun is heard booming below the ramparts of Herat. England will have to provide for home defences, for the European War and possibly for the Soudan campaign also. It is, therefore, not likely that she will be able to help us quite as materially as she might otherwise have done. We must, therefore, look to the Indian resources more closely, and do our utmost to improve and utilise them in the best possible manner.

That the martial races of India afford as good fighting stuff under proper discipline, as perhaps any in the face of the world, is what no body will think of controverting. And if illustrations were at all needed, they would be amply afforded in the recent doings in the Soudan. At the bloody engagement that took place the other day at Hasheen near Suakim, the men of the Indian Contingent took a prominent part in the day's work, and are reported by General Graham, the general in command, to have behaved *splendidly*. They charged the enemy twice, inflicting great loss. The day's victory was greatly due to the efforts of the Indian Cavalry lancers and the Sikh bayonets. If these brave sons of India have displayed so much bravery on foreign service, they may be naturally expected to display greater bravery still for the defence, honour and glorification of their mother land. The sons and descendants of the heroes of Chillianwalla, Mudki, Ferozshahar and Sobraon were, by an inexplicable Providence destined to be the heroes of Tel-el-Kabir, Hasheen, Kabul and Ali Masjid, and are yet destined to be the heroes of Herat, Pul-i-Khatoun, Sarakhs and Panjdeh.

But the standing army, as at present constituted, will not, we are afraid, be found sufficient for the purposes of so formidable a war, even with proposed addition to the Indian army and the promised reinforcements from England. Our princes and chiefs evidently feel the gravity of the occasion, and have right loyally come forward to place their military resources, and if necessary, their personal services, at the disposal of the paramount power, with whose safety and welfare their interests are so intimately bound up. The loyal offers of the Nizam, Scindia, Holkar and the Begum of Bhopal have been gratefully acknowledged, but it has not yet transpired as to whether they will be actually accepted or not. It is being tried in some quarters to dissuade the Government from accepting these offers on the ground that owing to laxity of discipline and bad equipment the armies of the native chiefs will be a source of inconvenience and danger, instead of strength. We trust the Government will have no difficulty in recognising the undesirablity and imprudence of rejecting these loyal proposals. Deficient in discipline and equipment as these armies may be, they are composed entirely of warlike men, and can be raised to the proper state of efficiency without any serious difficulties. As the *Pioneer* remarks, loyalty in India is like the vitality in an Arab horse, which, though not ostensibly paraded, is always ready to come forth when wanted. With powerful rulers like the Nizam, Scindia, Holkar and the Begum of Bhopal, and many other chiefs of dignity and importance coming forward publicly and spontaneously to place the resources of their States at the disposal of the Paramount Power to which they all owe so much, and with the people of India naturally profiting by and accepting this worthy example of their natural leaders, the position of England, backed by this hearty assurance from her greatest dependency, will be immensely strengthened in dealing with the question of the Russian advance in Central Asia.

The usefulness of volunteers like these it is impossible to overestimate. Supposing that these volunteers are not likely to be extremely serviceable in the field of War, as some would have us believe, the very fact of their being present and ready and willing to support the paramount power will be a tower of strength in the eyes of Russians, who are said foolishly to count so much on the disaffection of our princes and people. It seems to us, that it is not only unwise and imprudent but wicked and mischievous in the extreme, to endeavour to throw any obstacles in the way of the services of these volunteers being availed of and properly utilized. Sir James Fergusson, in replying to a recent address of the Kattywar chiefs, very properly remarked that the the British Government would gain immense accession to its strength, were the scions of noble Indian houses to be found occupying

suitable places in the Indian army. There might come a time when England and India would be seriously threatened, but Sir James expressed his strong belief, that if the Government continued to study the good of its subjects and to respect the princes and to secure their co-operation, when real danger came, the Government and the Empire might face it absolutely without fear. There is a ring of statesmanship about the old Knights' utterances, the truth and force of which none, in his senses, would question.

KIDDERPORE DOCKS.

PARTY tactics, though not good, are still unavoidable where Government is carried on by Parliamentary procedure. Between the "ins" and the "outs," the weapons, however, being the same, no permanent harm results from any amount of delusive statements. True or false or misleading, it is all the same. The object is only to score a point at debate, and, generally speaking, the evil ends there, and the friction of six hundred and odd intellects in the House of Commons manages, on the whole, to keep things straight. The case becomes quite different, however, when we have to deal with absolute Governments. In that case there is no friction of opposing intellects, no explanation, no commentary, no consideration for ins and outs, and want of frankness on the part of a governor in making a statement is calculated to cause serious mischief. It detracts from the respect and confidence due to his high office, and the result is baneful. This may be looked upon as a trite axiom, but it is unfortunately not unoften overlooked. A mistaken imitation of the procedure of a free country among a subject race, conjoined with a determination to accept no light from without, is the real cause of this evil, and it seems now to be the prevailing disposition of the Bengal Government; at all events it was notably displayed in the proceedings of the Government in connection with the Kidderpore Docks. The Government had come to the determination to have the Docks, and it might have easily got them, if it had followed the Cæsarian principle of *sic volo sic jubeo*. But no, determined as it was, it still wanted the pinchbeck glory of going through a Parliamentary procedure. It got up a Bill, and submitted it to a mock Parliament; but it would vouchsafe no information. The result was that the few independent members, who wished to think for themselves, had to grope through their way in utter darkness. No intelligent action could be taken in the matter without consulting the reports of the experts consulted on the Sanitary, the Engineering and the Commercial aspects of the question, as also the despatches of the Government and of the Secretary of State; and these were just the papers which were withheld, and the members of the pseudo-Parliament, *alias* the Bengal Council, were called upon to vote upon a miserable scrap of paper, containing less than twelve lines of matter, entitled the "Statement of Objects and Reasons," and no wonder there was some gibbing under the circumstances. The strong common sense of Kumar Baikunthanath Dey at once suggested to him that things were not quite so certain as they were represented to be, and he demanded information. Messrs. Miller and Phillips were better situated. They had obtained from some private source or other information regarding the reports, and were also in possession of some extracts therefrom, and they attacked the measure with great force and a profusion of unassailable arguments. Under the circumstance the frank, honest, straightforward course would have been to defer the consideration of the Bill until all the information had been supplied. But the Government could not brook this idea. To be baulked by outsiders was out of the question. Right or wrong, the Government had come to the determination to carry the Bill through, and it could not tolerate the proposition of yielding to outside demand for information, and delay the passing of the Bill. Accordingly His Honor the Lieutenant Governor bowled his opponents out in the most approved Parliamentary fashion. The complaints were that sufficient information had not been given; that the cost would be heavy and unremunerative; that it would entail unnecessary and oppressive burdens on the commerce of the town, and that it would be prejudicial to the health of the Metropolitan community. In reply, His Honor said:

The learned Advocate-General said that this Council was placed in an awkward position; that though a great deal had been done outside its walls, hon. members were not in a position to decide upon this question in view of the fact that all the papers connected with it had not been placed before them. There is no fault on the part of the Bengal Government in relation to that matter, but I cannot help observing that all the earlier papers have been published, at least they were sent to the newspapers, two years ago. All the later papers have been sent to the Port Commissioners, and authority has been given to them to publish them. That they have not been published before is owing to this fact, that no one has until now thought it necessary or desirable to throw any doubt on the advisability of those docks. The real point of the opposition, it seems to me, lies in what the learned Advocate-General laid chief stress upon, namely, that the facts now are not the same as the facts upon which the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce and the Port Commissioners originally based their views. To some extent this may be true. I have no right to speak with any great authority on the point. All that I can gather from those who have right to speak is that the present extreme depression in trade is a purely temporary and transient thing, and that neither history nor experience supports the conclusion that it is likely at all to continue or last. Of course you may say, even if it is temporary it is wise to hold your hands until you see the results of it for the next few months, or the next year. The answer I should give to that would be that the passing of this Bill does not prevent the delay which you require if delay is really necessary. The passing of this Bill, which is only an enabling Bill, puts the Port Commissioners in the way of raising money for carrying out these docks. Should they never choose to raise a pice, the Bill would be inoperative, and then, if there is any reality in the contention that these docks are not wanted, I think that the argument could be used against those who represent the merchants of Calcutta, the shipping interests of Calcutta, the trade interests of Calcutta, and that the weight and force which it is alleged is such a strong one as represented by the memorialists could be brought to bear upon those who are your representatives in such an affair as this.

This, however, we look upon as the merest evasion. Nothing is said of the Government despatch and the reply of the Secretary of State, and they are by far the most important documents wanted. The presentation, three years ago, of fifty copies of the Report of the mixed Commission to the Chamber of Commerce and to the editors of the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer*, and the permission given to the Port Commissioners to print the report, had nothing to do with the members of the Council. Those members were called upon to pass a law, and they should have had every information placed before them by the Government on whose motion the Bill was brought forward. The *Pioneer* and the *Englishman* are the organs of the Bengal Government, and we can easily understand how they had been favored with copies of the particular reports. But for the public at large, we should like very much to know how many copies of the Report had been sent out to the editors of other papers? If the Government did not give them any copy, it has no right to complain if the charge of suppressing information is hurled against it. As for the hon'ble members of the Council, they had a right to get the reports from the Government, and the Government failed in its duty by withholding them. The argument about the public remaining quiescent at the earlier stages of the measure is also of no worth. The public can do nothing until the Government gives them an opportunity to know what it is going to do. The duty rests with Government, and not with the public. Had the public had all along remained silent and evil consequences had resulted, the blame would be due entirely to the Government which is maintained for the good of the public. Much was made in Council of the opinion given by Dr. Chevers and Dr. Macnamara in favor of the sanitary aspect of the question. But knowing how Mr. Reynolds made out the Tenancy Act to be only a translation in modern language of the Permanent Settlement Regulations, it would have been satisfactory if the texts of the medical experts had been laid on the table. Anyhow, the dead weight of the official majority carried the day, and the Bill was passed. Curiously, however, Nemesis has, even within a month, overtaken the Government, and complaint is rife that disease and mortality are already greatly on the increase among the labourers engaged in excavating the docks, and that there is every reason to apprehend that they will extend to the people of the neighbourhood, and even to the Metropolis itself. It is rumoured also that the Government of India has not yet given its assent to the Bill, and has declined to advance the necessary funds for the work of the docks. Which of these is the most urgent incentive we know not, but the Government of Bengal lays stress on the sanitary aspect of the question, and has published a resolution saying, "It has come to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor that there have been outbreaks of sickness among the labourers employed on this work, and, though the Port Commissioners have made certain arrangements for protecting the health of their coolies, apprehensions have been expressed that, in the course of the excavations and during the construction of the docks, influences injurious to the public health may be brought into operation. Sir Rivers Thompson has consulted the Surgeon-General, and he has ascertained that Dr. Simpson is very strongly of opinion that a Committee of sanitary experts should be appointed to consider the probable effects of the new docks upon the health of the people of the neighbourhood, and of the population of Calcutta and the Suburbs generally. The Lieutenant-Governor has decided to adopt this proposal." He has gone further. He has appointed a Committee of Investigation consisting of Dr. Coates, Principal of the Calcutta Medical College, Dr. Mackenzie, Principal of the Campbell Medical School, Dr. O'Brien, Health-Officer to the Calcutta Corporation, and Mr. R. B. Buckley, C. E. to report on the subject. This is good as far as it goes. But the public would have been better satisfied had the inquiry been instituted when the demand for such an inquiry was first made, and before the outbreak of disease. It is always better to adopt precautions to prevent disease and death when they are only apprehended than to be thinking of inquiry when the mischief is already doing its worst. This is but a mere truism to repeat, and the Government itself laid much stress on it, when it appointed the Commission under Sec. 28 of the Municipal Act. But in its own case it seems to have forgotten it. No wonder that under the circumstances the public look with suspicion upon the Committee of Investigation. It would be an insult to the honorable and able men who have been appointed on the Committee to harbour the idea that they would in any way serve as buffers to Government. But our contemporary of the *Indian Daily News* is of opinion that the Committee is "a weak one," and we are unable to controvert the position he has taken. Officers of Government are not necessarily swayed by the opinions of the Government. To think otherwise would be to offer an insult. But there is such a thing as unconscious cerebration, and with the best of motives people who see only one side of the shield cannot but be mistaken. Hence is the necessity for outside opinion—for persons who see from an opposite standpoint, and have an opportunity of judging of the other side of the shield. The Government is well aware of this, and when it proposed to appoint a Sanitary Commission for Calcutta, one of the members named was Mr. Morris, a merchant. In appointing the Commission under Sec. 28 of the Calcutta Corporation Act, it gave the preference to Mr. Beverley, a Civilian. On the present occasion all independent and outside representation has been rigidly excluded, and the public naturally think that this is due to a desire to prevent discordant opinion, and to clear the way for free access to the advances which have been withheld by the Government of India. We do not believe such to be the case. But if the public think otherwise, the Government should thank itself for neglecting to give every guarantee for the rectitude of its motives. The evil arises from an unjustifiable jealousy of public opinion, and bureaucratic repugnance to take the public into confidence. However great and all-powerful the

Government may be, it cannot govern the conscience of the public by high-handedness alone.

THE LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT BILL.

AT the last meeting of the Bengal Council, the Local Self-Government Bill was, after some discussion, finally settled in a Committee of the whole house. Five of the Hon'ble Members came forward with important suggestions. As head of the Public Works Department, Colonel Trevor felt the weight of the arguments lately urged by the *Englishman*, about the risk of European Engineers, now employed by the Road Cess Boards, being summarily dismissed by the native members of District Boards. The amendment he proposed was that in the event of any abolition of posts or dismissal, the District Board should be bound to grant adequate pensions to the officers affected. Considering that the Boards would be dominated by a majority of official members, the apprehension was totally groundless. But in the interests of old servants of Government, we are glad to notice that no opposition was offered to the amendment. Mr. MacDonnell carried four out of six amendments, with a view to raise the qualifications for the franchise, and to further strengthen the hands of Magistrates and Commissioners. Mr. Macaulay carried about a dozen amendments which he proposed. The first on his list had an imposing aspect. It gave power to the Lieutenant-Governor to direct, should he think fit, that two-thirds of the members of a Local Board may be elected. The others were mostly technical. But the last was a serious one. It gave power to every Union Committee to declare every public tank, stream, or well, which they may have cleansed, at a cost not exceeding Rs. 100 to be defrayed out of the funds of the Union, or out of funds to be raised by local rating, to be their own property. This cannot but lead to serious complications, and not unoften to the expropriation of private property. The word "public" has not been defined in the Bill, and as according to the Hindu Sastras, the ritual for the consecration of a tank declares the water thereof to be dedicated to public use, every private tank in the country may be taken possession of by the different Unions after incurring an expenditure of a couple of Rupees for cleansing it. Such a mischievous section should never have been thought of, and Kumar Baikunthanath Dey did well in opposing it. But after the passing of the Tenancy Act, such an expropriation as that of all private tanks of the country was a small matter, and the amendment was carried by a large majority. Sir Rivers Thompson is an advocate of the *mabap* theory, and he does well to rob Peter to pay Paul. Kumar Baikanthanath Dey and Rai Jaiprakas Lal had a great number of amendments to propose, with a view to give at least ostensible reality to Self-Government, and to secure, to a certain extent, the reign of law in lieu of discretion. But flushed with victory after the passing of the Tenancy Act, Sir Rivers Thompson could not brook the idea, and all the amendments were lost. The first amendment of Rai Joyprakasa Lal was that the law should be entitled the *Local Boards Act* which would be in keeping with the modest character of its provisions; but it would have taken away the gilding and imposing aspect of "local self-government," and as sound and fury are of more importance now-a-days than honest work, Mr. Macaulay shunted it off the line by saying it was too late. Rai Joyprakasa then moved that section 6 be so modified as to make the appointment of Local Boards optional, but was not befriended by any one. Kumar Baikunthanath Dey then tackled Section 7 in order to raise the minimum of District Board members from 9 to 15, and to restrict the number of official members to one-third, but he was unequally matched for the fray. Moulvi Abdul Jabbar was ready to ply his troth that official members, who are constantly changing and are mere birds of passage, possess better knowledge of the place where they happen to be present for the moment and its requirements than residents for generations, and Mr. Macaulay found in this opinion a haven of refuge for his overwhelmingly bureaucratic doctrine of official majority. He had of course also the bogey of backward districts. It may be that in that Bœotia of India, the Central Provinces, where a large portion of the inhabitants are Coles, Bheels and Gonds, the proportion of elected members for District and Local Boards is two-thirds—and in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab three-fouths; but in the most forward province of Bengal, avowedly the most extensively educated, the proportion is to be one-half plus an official Chairman, so that there may always be a standing official majority. This must strike the reader as significant, but there need be no cause for wonder. The laws for the former places were passed by the Indian Government, which had probably no local knowledge of the country, whereas the law for Bengal comes from Sir Rivers Thompson, who has spent nearly the whole of his official life here, and knows every inch of its ground, and instead of being, as people say, hostile to the measure of local Self-Government was entirely in favor of it. Those who are most favorable to a project are under the circumstances the very men who dole out the smallest measure. Kumar Baikunthanath Dey had also an amendment for the election of Chairman for District Boards, but he was hustled out fast enough. The subject had been discussed before, and, in reply to a representatoni of the Indian Association, Sir Rivers is reported to have said that the Secretary of State had ruled that the Chairman of every District Board should be the District Magistrate, and Sir Rivers therefore had "no option but to obey orders." Sir Rivers is also reported to have read some extracts from official papers and the Secretary of State's orders. We were not present to hear the reading, nor have we any access to the papers in question, but knowing that according to Sir Rivers' reading the new Tenancy Act is nothing but a translation in modern language of the Permanent Settlement Regulations, we feel disposed to wish for a sight of the despatches, particularly as we cannot reconcile this positive order with the language of Section 22 of the Bill in which it is said that "*should the Lieutenant-Governor in any case so direct*," (*the Chairman*) *may* "*be elected by the members of such Board, from among their own number.*" With a positive prohibitory order before him the hon'ble member in charge of the Bill could not have framed such an optional provision, nor would Sir Rivers have allowed it to pass unchallenged. The inference, therefore, is strong that the order is not so *strictly positive* as it is represented to be. However, this is a small matter, as on the whole we are of opinion that the Bill, if passed, will be a sham and delusion. With a standing majority of official members, it is amusing to note how Sir Rivers Thompson glibly calls it Local Self-Government. How can Local Self with a standing minority, ever exercise any government, is a mystery, but Lord Ripon used the word Local Self-Government, and Sir Rivers is determined to retain the credit of being an advocate of Local Self-Government, notwithstanding that he reduces the said Local Self to a standing minority, totally impotent to do any good. In fact Lord Ripon wanted to give the reality, and Sir Rivers has given the name only. It needs not, under the circumstances, the mantle of the prophet to prophesy that the whole thing will prove a burlesque, except when it proves positively mischievous, as, no doubt, frequently it will. In a former article, when commenting on the letter of the British Indian Association on the subject, we noticed several sections which were calculated to do serious harm. These have all been set aside by the Select Committee, and in lieu of them, they have devised Section 135, which invests the Lieutenant-Governor with the power of framing bye-laws, in regard to all manner of subjects including the creation of various offences, which, though at present undefined, will carry penalties as defined by the law. This is a system of law-making which is repulsive to all sense of propriety, honesty, justice and fair-play. The object of establishing the Legislature was to secure the fullest deliberation by both official and non-official members, and this is entirely defeated by the present plan of making the non-official members delegate the power of making laws and creating offences at the discretion of the Lieutenant-Governor and making the Legislature declare the penalties for unknown offences. This is as vicious a system as it can be. But under the present *regime*, we cannot hope for anything better.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES

THE RECENT heavy rains in the frontier have upset some of the plans of the Rawal Pindi Durbar. The Amir was, according to previous arrangements, timed to have reached Pindi on the 28th and the Durbar was to have been held to-day. But according to the latest telegraphic advices he was expected at Peshawar on the 28th, as he was delayed on the road owing to heavy rains. A rumour had gained currency that the Amir objected to a railway journey and would travel from Peshawar to Pindi in the Vice-regal carriage, as His Highness would like to see the country. His Highness had, however, changed his mind and agreed to travel by rail, but is said to have changed his mind again, as he apprehended disaster, and some color is given to this apprehension owing to the fact that two men have been caught red-handed in their attempt to do injury to the rails near Rawal Pindi. We understand that it has now been finally settled that he travels by rail from Peshawar to Rawal Pindi, and reaches his destination to-day. The Amir does not go to camp as arranged before, but lives in the house of the Commissioner which has been sumptously fitted up, and all the arrangements for his reception at Peshawar to Pindi and *en route* are all that can be desired, and include an elephant procession from the Pindi Railway Station to the Commissioner's house. The Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief and the Lieutenant-Governor, of the North-West and of the Punjab have already arrived at Rawal Pindi. The Viceroy's camp is said to have been fitted up in the most elaborate fashion. His Excellency *en route* stopped at Allahabad, Toondla, and Umballa, in each of which places he was most enthusiatically recieved. At Allahabad Maharaja Holkar met him, and at Toondla the Viceroy was interviewed by the Maharaja Scindia, when he repeated his loyal offer to place his resources at the disposal of the Government and his personal services if necessary. The Punjab chiefs, who will be present at the assemblage, are the Maharaja of Patiala, the Nawab of Bhawlpore, the Rajas of Jhind, Nabha, Kuppurtollah, Faridkot and Chamba.

WE ARE sorry to hear that ill-health has compelled the Rev. Dr. K. M. Banerji to resign his seat on the Municipal Board. In him the Corporators lose an accomplished colleague, whose high scholarship and ripe judgment stood in good stead for them on all occasions. They will find it hard to obtain a worthy successor in his place. We regret specially the cause which has led to the retirement.

IT IS gratifying to notice that the influence of Mr. Cunningham has secured for the Health Society the co-operation of Sir Richard Garth. That gentleman succeeds Mr. Miller as President. He is good-natured, kindhearted, and sympathetic, and is, doubtless, always well-meaning. But he will, we trust, pardon us if we venture to think that Medicine is not a fit outcome of Pandects. At all events the labours of Mr. Justice Cunningham in connection with the health of Calcutta do not warrant the expectation of any good out of such pokingin an other's profession. Each man to his own profession is the best policy to follow. Seeing, moreover, that even under the administration of thirteen good Judges justice in the High Court is excessively dear and not at all accessible to the poor, we cannot cherish the hope that health in their hands will fare better. Health at a high price is not exactly what the poor in Calcutta are in need of. We dislike also the idea of the Chief Justice of the High Court setting himself up in antagonism to the Municipality of Calcutta. With Sir Richard Garth and Messrs. Beverley

and Cunningham on the opposition benches of the notorious memorialists, what prospects has the Corporation of a *tabula rasa* in the minds of its judges, should it appear as a suppliant for justice in the High Court? Judges should always keep themselves aloof from the factions and fads of the day. Too much mixing in society is apt to work unconsciously on the mind.

PRIZES were distributed on Tuesday last, under the presidency of Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, to the meritorious students of the Albert College. The report shows that the College is making steady progress. There are upwards of 663 students on the rolls. The results of the last University Examinations are very satisfactory. Great credit is due to Babu Krishna Behari Sen, the Rector of the Institution, for the energy, ability, and unwearied zeal with which he is conducting the duties of his office. The music class is a new feature of the institution, and special pains are taken to teach singing to the boys. The singing on the occasion of the Prize-distribution was exceptionally good. Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, in bringing the proceedings to a close, gave a vigorous, eloquent and instructive address, in the course of which he said, that "if a knowledge of Western Science was ever to spread among the masses in this country, it could only be accomplished by means of the Vernacular. He encouraged the pupils to persevere in their studies; and while deploring the disadvantages which native students of English literature had to contend against, he still felt confident that, as descendants of the ancient Aryan race, they would be able to hold their own, as recent results in England have shown, against all comers."

AT THE last meeting of the Bengal Council the Select Committee on the Public Ferries Bill submitted their final report. The Bill is a short one, and on the whole a mere consolidation measure. There is one section in it, however, to which serious exception has been taken by Kumar Baikunthanath Dey, and it is worthy of note. Sec. 15 declares that no person should be allowed to ply a boat for hire from any point to any point within two miles of a public ferry, and thereby secures to Government the absolute monopoly of all boat-traffic. Kumar Baikanthanath Dey urges that the ferry should always imply the *crossing* of a stream, and not include voyages from point to point on the same side of a stream. For instance, a person taking boat at the Salkea Ferry Ghat, with a view to go to Howrah, should not come under the public ferry rule. But the Government insists upon having the monopoly, and will listen to no argument.

THE HON'BLE JUSTICE Norris has instituted a suit in the Original Side of the High Court, against the Secretary of State in Council, for recovering the difference of salary as a Judge of Her Majesty's High Court in Calcutta, between Rs. 3,600 and Rs. 4,166. Like most of the Judges, Mr. Justice Norris was appointed in England, but it is contended, that the Secretary of State's order reducing the salary of the High Court Judges, had not been made known to him at the time of his appointment. We had always protested against the arbitrary reduction of the salary of the Judges, as it would tend to materially diminish the efficiency of the Bench, but to *no* avail. It remains to be seen what view of the case will be taken by the Hon'ble Court, and the result will be watched with great interest.

WE DEEPLY regret to announce the death of the Maharaja Aftab Chand, of Burdwan, on Wednesday last, from liver complaint. He had been ailing for some time past, and his medical attendants had been hoping to bring him round, but all their hopes were in vain. He was only twenty-four years of age and had been installed on the Gadi only three years ago by Sir Ashley Eden. The Burdwan water-works and the Free College at Burdwan are some few of the institutions that owed much to the liberality of the deceased nobleman.

THE Insolvency Petition of the Revd Mr. Hastie was heard by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Wilson and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Norris on Wednesday and Thursday last. The hearing was adjourned after the examination of Mr. Hastie, in order to enable Mr. Pugh, the counsel for Miss Pigot, who opposes Mr. Hastie's discharge, to adduce evidence in support of the opposition.

MR. F. AGNEW, Recorder of Rangoon, has, we hear, been appointed a Judge of the Calcutta High Court. It is reported in Rangoon, that Mr. R. S. T. MacEwen has been telegraphed for to succeed Mr. Agnew.

MAHARAJA Narendra Krishna, Bahadur President of the Council of the Calcutta Public Library, has, we understand, applied to the Government of Bengal, for a monthly grant of 200 Rs. in aid of the Library. It is a pity that so useful an institution cannot afford to be self-supporting; but since it is, unfortunately, not so, it is but proper that the Government should stretch its helping hand and save the Library from falling off in usefulness. The grant asked for is modest enough, and we trust the Government will see fit to comply with the Maharaja's reasonable request.

AT THE monthly general meeting of the Asiatic Society, held on the 4th instant, the Presldent, Dr. Rajendralala Mitra, exhibited a copper-plate inscription found under the earth in the district of Dacca, and referred to the peculiarities of certain dates in it. A most important discovery has been made with regard to the value of a certain figure which has been accepted by all the former antiquarians and epigraphists to be a symbol for 100. The learned Doctor's reading of it is that in the inscription he exhibited it must stand for either 1 or 2. If the proposed value of the figure be accepted as correct, and we do not see how it can be gainsaid, it would necessitate a thorough re-examination and a possible recasting of much of what has been written by antiquarians on the subject of Indian numerals.

THE following is the reply received with reference to a telegram sent by the President of the Central Committee of Landholders to the Secretary of State:

Allahabad, 25th March, 1885.

MY DEAR MAHARAJA,—The Secretary of State desires you to be informed that he has no doubt the memorial which the landholders of Bengal are preparing will reach him in ample time through the regular channel.

I am directed by His Excellency the Viceroy to inform you of the above.

Yours faithfully,
(Sd.) D. MACKENZIE WALLACE.
Maharaja Narendra Krishna, Bahadur.

AS ANNOUNCED in our last issue, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor has appointed a Commission—consisting of Mr. Beames, as President and Mr. W. H. Grimley and Babu Durgagati Banerji as members—for the revision of ministerial establishments. The Commission will have to consider the question of the strength and occupation, as also the question of salaries, of ministerial establishments. 'Applications are constantly received by the Lieutenant-Governor from all classes of ministerial officers praying for an increase of emoluments; and these are in the majority of cases based on the ground that their salaries were fixed many years ago when the cost of living was much less than it is now, and that they are inadequate under the altered circumstances of the present day." The time has surely come for a general inquiry into, and a revision of, the rates of pay drawn by the ministerial officers of Government in this Province. His Honor has reason to believe that the needful reforms on all these points could probably be effected without any increase. How that can be done we are at a loss to understand. The Lieutenant-Governor has the assurance of officers of large experience, both European and native, that a revision of the vernacular establishments would provide all the funds necessary to place the English ministerial establishments on a satisfactory footing. In other words, if the vernacular establishments be swept away, the English establishments would be largely profited by it. This sort of reform will not commend itself to those who demand improvement in the efficiency of the ministerial establishments. However, as the Commission has been appointed, we must wait to see the recommendations they make.

NO IMPORTANT events are reported from the Soudan after the bloody engagement near Tamai and Hashin on Sunday before last. The rebels tried to intercept the Indian and British forces under the command of General Macneil, who started from Suakim on the road to Tamai, for the purpose of constructing *zareeba*, but were prevented from doing so by a sharp cannonade from the Hashin *zareeba* and from ships in harbour, heavy loss being inflicted on the enemy. Our troops advanced and succeeded in forming a *zareeba* six miles on the road to Tamai, which was afterwards attacked by 4000 rebels, who were repulsed after 2 minutes sharp fighting, during which over a 1000 rebels are said to have been killed. On the enemy being attacked by General Graham's force they streamed in large numbers towards Tamai. The men of the Indian contingent who took part in the fight are reported to have behaved "splendidly"; they charged the enemy twice, inflicting great loss. It was decided to remove Lord Wolseley's head-quarters from Korti to Dongola, which place Lord Wolsely has reached. A garrison will, however, remain at Korti. On March 24, a British convoy, on its way to the Tamai *zareeba*, was attacked by the rebels who were, however, repulsed with great loss. The British losses, though not considerable, were not by any means trifling, and show the fierce character of the engagements. In the engagements of the 20th, 22nd and 24th instant the total number of casualties was as follows: 123 killed, 202 wounded and 71 missing. The losses of the Indian contingent included in the above amounted to 72 killed, 90 wounded, and 38 missing. It will thus be seen that the brunt of all the battles fell on our brave Indian soldiers, and it is some consolation to notice that their bravery is officially acknowledged in the most praiseworthy terms. It has not yet transpired whether the unfortunate missing men are prisoners in the hands of the enemy or have been left dead or wounded in the field without any body noticing them.

Mr. Childers, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, said that the Egyptian Convention contains no guarantee against international interference in Egypt.

EARL KIMBERLEY, in reply to a deputation from the London Chamber of Commerce said that the Government had determined not to annex Upper Burmah. His Lordship said that Earl Dufferin has under consideration the best means for improving British relations with Burmah.

THAT the peace negotiations between England and Russia were likely to come to nothing was evident from the attitude of the St. Petersburgh Press, which is triumphant over the agreement proposed by Mr. Gladstone and accepted by Russia respecting the debatable territory. The agreement is regarded as a victory for Russian diplomacy. There is a strong feeling in London regarding the political situation in Central Asia. The *Times* urges the advisability of counteracting the effect of the Russian preparations by strengthening important positions within the disputed territory by the Afghans. It urges that if Russia continues to delay the despatch of the Boundary Commission, Sir P. Lumsden should make a report defining the basis of England's demand; if parleyings are prolonged, and it is found impossible to arrive at a final and satisfactory decision, England should adopt measures of the same character as Lord Beaconsfield's when the Russians threatened Constantinople. In consequence of the predominance of the war party in Russia, M. de Giers, the Russian war minister, who is opposed to further aggression, is reported to have resigned. The British authorities have positive proofs that Russia has been trying to instigate an Afghan rising at Panjdeh. At Herat, though outwardly all is quiet, an immediate Russian advance is not regarded as improbable, as a concentration of Russian troops

in this direction is reported. Bazar gossip is not idle. Rumours are current in the frontier that the Russians have attacked the Boundary Commission, and that two of the members have been killed. But no official corroboration has been received, and the rumour is evidently a *canard*, as this unhappy event, if it had actually taken place, would have put a stop to all further negotiations, and would be a sufficient ground for declaration of war. But the negotiations do not seem to be making any marked progress. On the 24th instant, Mr. Gladstone in reply to a question said that Lord Granville was awaiting a reply from the Russian Government, which, it was expected, would settle whether negotiations should continue in London, or there should be a preliminary enquiry by the Commission on the spot, which latter plan Her Majesty's Government would prefer. But the answer, if it has been received at all, is evidently not satisfactory. The London correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* telegraghs that the state of affairs on the Afghan frontier is extremely critical; and that there appears to be little hope of a peaceful settlement of the matters in dispute. Negotiations between England and Russia are making little or no progress, and the probabilities of a diplomatic rupture are increasing. There is said to be only one belief, namely that war is imminent. The cabinet has decided upon the adoption of a firm and resolute policy, and to take bold and spirited action, should necessity arise. An army of 20,000 Russians is said to be advancing from the Caucasus to the Afghan frontier. Indian officers on furlough in England are hastening their return to India. As many as 70 of them booked their passages in one day. Preparations for war are being pushed on apace in all directions. An admiralty order has been issued in London directing that every available ship be prepared for service. Frequent interviews are taking place between Earl Granville, and Musurus and Fehmy Pashas, and rumours are current that they are negotiating for an alliance between England and Turkey.

SINCE writing the above, the following telegrams have been received:

London, March 26, 6 P. M.—A Royal message was read in both Houses this afternoon, stating that in view of the present grave emergency, the Army Reserves and the Militia will be called out, the former for permanent service.

London, March 28.—The *Times*, in this morning's issue, publishes a paragraph, stating that the Russian Government are concentrating 50,000 troops at Baku. Prince Dondukaff Korsonkoff, the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Caucasus, has been summoned to St. Petersburg. Lord Granville, in reply to a question in the House of Lords last night said that nothing indicated that the British Government flinched with respect to the Afghan question, and that Government firmly adhered to the policy agreed to by both Liberals and Conservatives, while they would at the same time employ every means to effect a satisfactory settlement. The Russian Ambassador stated yesterday, that his Government was considering the despatch sent by the British Government on 16th instant.

DR. DE JONGH'S LIGHT-BROWN COD LIVER OIL.—ITS GREAT VALUE AS A NUTRIENT FOR WEAKLY CHILDREN.—In cases of languid and imperfect nutrition often observed in children, the surprising efficacy of Dr. de Jongh's Oil is thus described by Dr. Edward Carey: "It is in the diseases incidental to childhood, that mainly depend on the mal-assimilation of the food in the pale cachectic child, when the anxious Practitioner has exhausted the whole range of alteratives and tonics, that Dr. de Jongh's Cod Liver Oil will come in and satisfy his most sanguine expectations. Where the powers of life are low, it affords nourishment to the body when none other can be borne it furnishes the frame with fat in a truly wonderful manner; and administered as it is in Holland, to the delicate and puny child, who though not considered ill, is in that state of impaired health which would favour the development of disease, its extraordinary effects will soon be visible, after having taken it for a short period, in a return to health and strength which were before unknown, and which will be accomplished by no other remedy with which we are acquainted. Dr. de Jongh's Light-Brown Cod Liver Oil is sold only in capsuled imperial half-pints, pints and quarts, with his stamp and signature and the signature of his sole consignees on the capsule and the label under wrapper, by all chemists, druggists and store-keepers. Sole Consignees, Ansar, Harford and Co., 210, High Holborn, London.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette—25*th March* 1885.

General 19th—March—Baboo Surya Kumar Agasti, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Purneah, to be a Probar under the Native Civil Service Rules, and will remain posted to Purneah.

Baboo Ashutosh Gupta, Tempy Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Lohardugga, to be a Probar under the Native Civil Service Rules, and will remain posted to Lohardugga.

Mr J R Hallett, C S, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on 8th inst.

General—20th March—Baboo Shoshi Sikar Dutt, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Perozepore, Backergunge, leave for five days, from 22nd inst.

Moulvie Syed Obedullah, Depy Magte and Depy Colr Backergunge, to have charge of the Perozepore sub-divn of that dist, during absence, on leave, of Baboo Shoshi Sikar Dutt.

21st March—Baboo Bepinbehari Pramanik, Sub-Depy Colr Madhubani, Durbhunga, leave for three months, from date he may avail himself of it.

24th March—Baboo Rajendro Nath Ghose, Depy Colr, Nowgong, Rajshahye, is vested with the powers of a Colr under Act X of 1870 in that dist.

Baboo Doorga Dass Chowdhry, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, is posted to the sudder station of Dinagepore, from date he joined his apptmt.

Baboo Umesh Chunder Batabyal, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, to act as Head Asst in the Revenue Dept of the Bengal Secretariat, from 17th inst.

Mr J J Livesay, Magte and Colr, Bogra, leave for six months, from date he may avail himself of it.

Mr J E B Jeffery, Jt-Magte and Depy Colr, Hooghly to act as Magte and Colr of Bogra, during absence of Mr J J Livesay

Mr H Thompson, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Tipperah, is transfd to the sudder station of Burdwan.

Baboo Radhakant Banerjee, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Burdwan, tempy to have charge of the Culna sub-divn of that dist.

Mr J Boxwell, Magte and Colr, Gya, furlough for one year.

Mr C W Bolton, Under-Secy, Govt of Bengal, on special duty, is to Act as Magte and Colr, Gya, during absence, on deputn, of Mr J Boxwell.

Mr E J Barton, Magte and Colr, Jessore, leave for three months, from 28th prox, or subsequent date.

Mr A Rattray, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Pubna, is transfd to the sudder station of Darjeeling.

Baboo Poorno Chunder Gupta, Offg Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Dinagepore, is transfd to the sudder station of Pubna.

Baboo Romesh Chunder Mookerjee, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Pubna, is transfd to the sudder station of Dinagepore.

Baboo Uma Churn Bose, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Banka, Bhagulpore, is transfd to Monghyr, and posted to the sudder station of that dist.

Baboo Mokunda Deb Mookerjee, Tempy Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Arrarea, Purneah, on leave, is transfd to Bhagulpore, and to have charge of the Banka subdivn, of that dist.

Advertisements.

WANTED.

A Head-Clerk for the Kamrup Cadastral Survey Settlement Office for three months with prospects of being made permanent. Salary from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 according to qualifications. Apply at once with copies of testimonials to the Extra-Assistant Commissioner at Rangia via Gouhati.

CHANDRA KANT SEN,
Sub-Deputy Collector,
For Extra-Asst. Commr.

Rangia,
The 25th March 1885.

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NOTICE.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

IRRIGATION.

It is hereby notified for general information that the undermentioned canals in the Orissa Circle will be closed for repairs for a period of one month, *i. e.* from the 1st to the 31st of May 1885.

2. It is also notified that, in consequence of the closure of the canals, the steamer traffic between Cuttack and Chandbally and Cuttack and Bhuddruck will be stopped during the abovementioned period.

1. Kendraparah Canal.
2. Gobree Canal.
3. Pattamoondee Canal.
4. Taldundah Canal.
5. Machgong Canal.
6. High Level Canal, 1st Range.
7. Ditto Ditto 2nd do.
8. Ditto Ditto 3rd do.
9. Branch Canal to Bhuddruck.

C. W. ODLING,
Under-Secretary.

Calcutta, the 23rd March 1885.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT—BENGAL.

IRRIGATION.

The 24th March 1885.

No. 119.—*Notification.*—Notice is hereby given that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal proposes under sections 78, 79, 80, 81 and 99 of Act III (B.C.) of 1876 to pass the following rules for carrying out the provisions of the said act, with respect to the Sarun Canals. These rules will supersede those at present in force:—

1. In Notification No. 179, dated 18th August 1879, under the provisions of Part II of Act III of 1876, Government has reserved to itself the rights of property in the water in the following canals and river beds forming part of the Sarun irrigation scheme:—

1. Roopun Chap Sota.
2. The head cut.
3. The Daha river and the water channels in continuation of or in connection with it.
4. The Gandaki river and the water channels in continuation of or in connection with it.
5. The Dhanai river and the water channels in continuation of or in connection with it.
6. Gangri river and the water channels in continuation of or in connection with it.

These canals and rivers will hereinafter be referred to as the Sarun Canals.

2. No person shall take water from the Sarun Canals for irrigation or manufacturing purposes without the written permission of a duly authorized person.

Licenses will be required—

(*a*)—For the construction of temporary dams in the canal beds.

(*b*)—For the irrigation of lands by flow or lift.

(*c*)—For the construction of village channels and distributaries leading from the canals for the irrigation of lands.

(*d*)—For water used for the purpose of any manufacture by any person other than a canal manager.

(*e*)—For the erection of fishing weirs or the use of fishing nets—(1) in the head cut; (2) in the new cuts from the Roopun Chap Sota to the Daha, Gandaki, Dhanai, and Gangri river beds; (3) in any other new cuts which may be made hereafter.

3. Government reserves at present its right to levy tolls for irrigation, and to charge for filling tanks, watering cattle, or for water for other domestic purposes.

4. The revenue administration of the Sarun irrigation scheme is vested in the Collector, who is ex-officio head of the Canal Revenue Department. The Executive Engineer of the Gunduck Division as canal officer is charged with the maintenance and management of the canals, but all orders passed by him under the Act of these rules are appealable to the Collector under whose general directions he will act. All orders relating to the canal revenue will

usually be issued by the Collector (through the Executive Engineer or not, as the case may be), and all correspondence intended for the Collector in this department should be addressed to the Collector direct, or through the Executive Engineer, Mozufferpore, or the Assistant Engineer, Gopalgunge.

5. For administrative purposes, the Sarun district is divided into the sub-districts enumerated in the following rule, and shown in a map deposited in the Collector's office. The boundaries of the sub-districts and their number may be hereafter modified.

6. The following guarantors are, till further orders, appointed canal managers, and will, within the under-mentioned sub-districts, act as the agents of Government in managing the affairs of the canals.

Manager of the Arua concern for the time being.		
Ditto	Bansapali	ditto.
Ditto	Bahrowli	ditto.
Ditto	Burhoga	ditto.
Ditto	Harpur	ditto.
Ditto	Hatwa estates	ditto.
Ditto	Jogapur concern	ditto.
Ditto	Nowada	ditto.
Ditto	Rajapatti	ditto.
Ditto	Ramkola	ditto.
Ditto	Sadowa	ditto.
Ditto	Sitalpur	ditto.

7. The more particular duties of a Canal Manager will be—

1st.—To receive applications and grant permits, printed in the prescribed form, for the use of water under sections 74, 75, and 77 of the Irrigation Act.

2nd.—Subject to the instructions of the canal officers to distribute, under the provisions of section 76, the water-supply allotted to his sub-district.

3rd.—To recover and credit to Government the water-rates.

4th.—To superintend and maintain such establishment as may be found necessary for the assessment and collection of water-rates within his sub-district.

8. Canal Managers have no power under Parts III, IV, and V of the Act; and all claims to remission under section 76 of Part VI should be referred to the canal officer or his assistant for disposal. Complaints regarding unauthorized use of canal water under sections 79, 80, and 81 are also to be referred to the canal officer or Collector for decision. All proceedings connected with the recovery of water rates by distraint or other compulsory process will be undertaken by the Collector.

9. Any Manager desiring the construction of a temporary dam across the Roopan Chap Sota, or across the bed of the Daha, Gandaki, Dhanai, or Gangri rivers must prefer a written application to the canal officer specifying the object of the work and the length of time for which it is required. It will be at the discretion of the canal officer to reject the application or to grant it on such conditions as he may think fit, one of the conditions being the power reserved to the canal officer of cutting the bund, if it should ever appear to him, in the public interests, necessary to do so.

Provided, however, that no such dam shall be constructed without due provision being made, by means of a proper escape channel, for the supply to the guarantor or guarantors, on the same river below such dam, of the share of water to which he or they may be entitled under the decision of the canal officer.

10. Any person other than a Manager who may desire to construct a temporary dam across the bed of any of the rivers mentioned in the last rule must prefer his application to the Canal Manager in charge of the sub-district in which the site of the proposed dam lies. The latter will then forward the application with his remarks to the canal officer for orders.

11. Any person, whether he be a Canal Manager or not, who constructs a dam across any of the river beds referred to in Rule 9, without having first obtained the written permission of the canal officer, or who after the construction of an authorized dam, does or abets the doing of any act to impede the free flow of water through the escape channel provided for such dam, will be liable to prosecution under section 93, Act III (B.C.) of 1876, chapter XVII of the Indian Penal Code, or otherwise as may seem proper to the Collector.

12. With reference to Rule 7, paragraph 2 above, it will be competent to the Canal Manager, subject to the control of the canal officer, and on his own responsibility,* to allow the construction of such temporary dams in any of the village channels (subsidiary to the main river beds mentioned in Rule 9) within his sub-district, as he may consider necessary for the proper distribution of the water-supply allotted thereto.

*With reference to the possible damage to crops, &c.

13. If one or more of the riparian proprietors desire to have a permanent dam or regulator constructed in any channel or river bed, he or they shall present an application to that effect to the Collector, who will consult the Canal Manager and the canal officer as to the desirability of constructing such dam or regulator. Should its construction be deemed desirable, the Collector will cause plans and estimates to be prepared, and he shall also call upon the applicants to deposit the cost (including cost of establishment), or to give a guarantee securing its payment when required, and providing that, if the cost of the work should, through unforeseen causes, exceed the original estimate, the balance will be made good by the applicant. The agreement will also provide for the dam or regulator being kept in proper repair, as well as for its being taken over by Government at a fair valuation, should this ever be considered expedient. The construction of such dam or regulator will be carried out by the canal officer, who shall also have power to stop all supplies of water if it is not subsequently maintained in proper repair.

14. Each application for a permanent dam or regulator will be considered on its own merits, and will only be granted on such conditions as the Collector in consultation with the Superintending Engineer shall consider fit.

15. A register will be kept of the owners of each permanent dam or regulator, and any person may at any time apply to the canal officer to be made a joint owner. The canal officer may either reject such application, or if he think fit, he may issue a notice upon the registered owner or owners, and after hearing any objection which the registered owner or owners may prefer against the admission of such applicant to be a joint owner, in either case he shall report fully to the Collector, who may confirm the original rejection of the application, or may direct that the applicant be registered as such joint owner, on payment to the registered owner or owners of such sums as may be fixed by him.

16. Persons desiring to irrigate their fields with canal water by flow or lift, must apply in person or by agent to the Canal Manager, whereupon the latter shall issue a permit in the prescribed form (Appendix B). The right to irrigate without extra charge extends up to the 31st of March following the date on which the permit was issued; provided, however, that under the operation of this rule one and the same crop be not assessed more than once. The rate charged shall not exceed Re. 1 per acre (or 12 annas per bigha), irrespective of the crops grown, except in special cases to be determined by Government.

17. Any person other than a Canal Manager desirous of taking water for the manufacture of indigo must apply for a permit to the Canal Manager, stating the estimated outturn, and undertaking that he will, on the 1st of October, declare the quantity he has manufactured. The charge will be at the rate of Rs. 2 per maund of indigo manufactured.

18. No person may allow water to run to waste, and no person other than a Canal Manager may use water from irrigation or for any other purpose without having first obtained a permit as required by the preceding two rules. Any person infringing this rule will, with the consent in writing of the Collector (but not otherwise), be charged double the ordinary rates for the water used without authority or wasted, and will in addition be liable, on prosecution by the Collector or canal officer, to the penalty provided by section 93 of Act III (B. C.) of 1876, or by any other law under which his offence may come. The charge in such cases will, as a rule, be laid by the Canal Manager by the submission to the canal officer or Collector of an "Unauthorized Irrigation Certificate." (*See* Appendix C.)

19. The privileges of guarantors are as follows:—

(1)—A prior claim to a supply of water for irrigation and manufacture during the continuance of their guarantee.

(2)—The right to use water for manufacturing purposes free of charge.

20. Any person may apply to the Collector to become a guarantor. If the Collector accept the application, which at his discretion he may or may not do, he shall proceed, in communication with the canal officer, to determine whether the new guarantee shall be utilized towards extending the canals, providing distributaries or embankments, or towards reducing the responsibility of any of the original guarantors. If the original guarantor (within whose sub-district the applicant's property or interest is situated) claims a reduction in his guarantee, and can at the same time show that the application of the new guarantor towards an extension of the canal would operate to reduce his collections below the amount of his guarantee, his claims to have his guarantee reduced shall be considered: otherwise the new guarantee may be applied towards extending the canals, and an area corresponding to the applicant's property or interests be marked off to him, within which he shall exercise the rights and privileges now exercised in their sub-districts by the guarantors mentioned in paragraph 6 of these rules.

If the applicant's interest or property be not situated within any sub-district as specified in paragraph 6, then the Collector shall apply the guarantee towards extending the benefits of the canal system.

21. The irrigation year will commence on the 1st April; and as soon as possible after the irrigation of any land has been completed or the manufacture of indigo [by a person other than the Canal Manager] has been concluded, the Canal Manager shall present the persons who used the water with bills for water-rates (in a form approved by Government) based upon the actual area irrigated or the outturn of indigo manufactured. If these bills are not paid [a] in the case of indigo manufacture within one month after presentation, [b] in the case of *rubbi* crops by the 1st March, [c] in the case of other crops within one month after the crop irrigated has been cut, the Canal Manager shall, without delay, submit a list of such unpaid bills to the Collector, who will put in force the powers vested in him for the recovery of the amount due in accordance with sections 83, 84, and 85 of the Indian Irrigation Act. Such list must be supported by the counterfoils of the bills (Appendix D) prepared by the Manager, as well as by his personal certificate, that he has satisfied himself of the justness of the claims; and in the case of unauthorized irrigation, by the "Unauthorized Irrigation Certificates" (Appendix C) required by Rule 18.

22. The sums thus recovered by the Collector will be placed in his (the Collector's) accounts to the credit of the Canal Manager as a set off against the amount due from him under his guarantee for the year during which such recoveries are made. The Canal Manager will be entitled to a commission of 20 per cent. on all recoveries (over and above the amount of his guarantee), made either by himself or by the Collector on lists submitted on or before the 31st March. Sums due on this account will not be shown by the Manager in his accounts, but will be paid to him by cheque after the adjustment by the Collector of the year's accounts. No percentage allowance will be granted to the Manager in respect of recoveries made by the Collector on lists submitted later than the 31st March, although the amount of such recoveries will, as stated above, be credited to him as an asset against the amount of his guarantee.

23. For water used by a Manager for the irrigation of his own lands, he will be charged at the ordinary rate of Re. 1 per acre (or 12 annas per bigah), and for sums due on this account he will not be entitled to any commission allowance.

24. It will be the duty of Canal Managers—

1st.—To see that all permits for the use of water be issued in the prescribed form, and a copy be kept in counterfoil in books supplied for the purpose.

2nd.—That copies of bills presented for payment be kept in the counterfoils supplied, for record.

3rd.—That a cash-book of all receipts of water-rates be kept in forms supplied for the purpose.

4th.—That for all cash received receipts be granted in the form supplied by the canal officer, which will be kept in counterfoil.

5th.—That all cash received be paid monthly into the sub-divisional or district treasury, and that the treasury receipts be filed with the cash-book as vouchers.

6th.—To submit such returns as may be required from time to time by the Collector.

7th.—To afford every facility to the canal officer and Collector in their periodical inspection of the Canal Manager's office and accounts.

25. The amount yearly guaranteed by each Manager is payable in two equal instalments, *viz.*, on the 30th of June and the 31st December of each year, and any arrear due on either of these dates will be deemed to be a demand under Act VII (B.C.) of 1880, and shall be recoverable by the processes prescribed by the above Act.

26. A yearly adjustment up to the 31st March will be made of each Manager's account as soon as possible after the close of the official year (31st March). For this purpose each Manager will, by the 15th April, submit to the Collector in duplicate a statement in form Appendix D, with the entries of the first 12 columns duly filled in. The Collector will supply the figures for the remaining columns, and return one copy to the Manager with a cheque for the sum payable on account of commission as shown in column 15, should no arrears from him be due. The Collector will also require the immediate deposit by the Manager of any arrears which may be shown to be due. Such arrears if not paid within one month after due notice to the manager, will be recoverable under the Certificate Procedure Act (VII B.C. of 1880).

J. M. McNEILE, *Lieut.-Col.*, R. E.,
Jt.-Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, P. W. Dept.

NOTICE.

An examination in English Composition, and in Bengali for the selection of 12 Apprentices in the offices of the Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs, will be held at Alipore on Monday the 21st April 1885. Candidates must produce proof that they are not more than 20 years old and must also produce satisfactory certificates of good moral conduct from at least two respectable gentlemen. Apply to the Assistant Collector up to 20th proximo.

C. C. STEVENS,
Dated Alipore, The 26th March 1885. } Magistrate and Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs.

POSTAL NOTICE.

EXCHANGE OF PARCELS WITH VICTORIA.

From the 1st April, 1885, parcels may be exchanged between India and the Colony of Victoria (Australia).

2. The conditions governing the limits of size and weight, the contents, and the rates of Postage of parcels sent from India to Victoria, will be the same as those laid down in Section IV of the *Postal Guide* for parcels sent from India to the United Kingdom.

3. Parcels sent from India to Victoria may not exceed £50 in value.

4. Each parcel should be accompanied by a declaration of its contents and their value, in the prescribed form.

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CALCUTTA, 23rd *March* 1885. } A. U. FANSHAWE, *Offg. Director General of the Post Office of India.*

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1000 Tons by the 15th May 1885.

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JOHN BLACKWELL,
Gorakhpur, 24th March 1885. } Store Keeper, B. & N. W. Railway.

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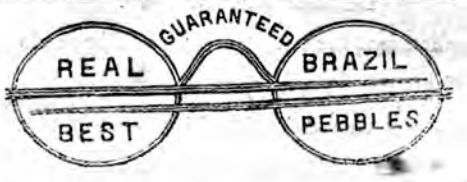

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